



NEWS RELEASE

Date: September 29, 2010
District: District 2 - Redding
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DANA TO DOWNTOWN UPDATE

REDDING – The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) District 2, in participation with the Shasta County Regional Transportation Planning Agency and the City of Redding, held a grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the opening of the new Dana ramp (Hilltop and Dana Drive) and the completion of the Dana to Downtown Project (State Route 44 in Redding) on Tuesday, September 28, 2010. The ceremony was held at the new entrance to SR 44 at Dana and Hilltop Drives.

Caltrans Director, Cindy McKim, spoke at the event as well as District Director John Bulinski, Dan Little (Shasta RTPA), Dick Dickerson (Shasta RTPA), Kurt Starman (City of Redding) and Brian Crane (City of Redding). Caltrans Project Manager Phil Baker hosted the event.

A ceremonial ribbon was cut to open both the onramp from Dana Drive to SR 44 and the new bike/pedestrian path. After the ribbon cutting, former State Senator Maurice Johannessen in his Maserati and the members of the Klassic Cruisers car club were some of the first motorists to head down the new onramp, while other participants walked or rode on the bike/pedestrian path, to cross the new bridge over the Sacramento River. In honor of the famous Caltrans EagleCam, the eagle mascot from Manzanita School took a ride with the Klassic Cruisers down the new ramp.

The \$66 million project, completed ahead of schedule and within budget, was almost entirely funded from Proposition 1B, a \$19.9 billion transportation bond championed by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and approved by voters in 2006. Located on State Route 44 between Interstate 5 and East Street, the Dana to Downtown project was designed to relieve congestion, improve safety, and reduce collisions.

The Bike/Pedestrian path was opened for a “preview” during the Dana to Downtown Ribbon Cutting ceremony. It will be closed for the next two weeks to complete erosion control and fencing and to complete other finishing work. The low maintenance landscape plantings and decorative sculptures going into the median planter box will also be completed within the next two weeks. A separate project to landscape the slopes along State Route 44 will begin next spring.

A fully functional ramp meter has been planned and installed on the new Dana onramp. The ramp meter will be activated in the future as needed based upon connector ramp volumes. In the meantime, motorists do not need to stop at the metering lights while they are off and not being used. Metering traffic will maintain the traffic flow on State Route 44 by breaking up the long lines of cars that enter the freeway, thus reducing turbulence in merge zones. Overall travel and freeway speeds are improved.

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NEWS RELEASE

There will be periodic night time closures of the new Dana ramp and the I-5 connector ramps in order to complete the remainder of the work.

Closure at Night Next Week

There will be a complete closure of westbound State Route 44 in Redding at the Sacramento River Bridge, both the northbound and southbound I-5 connector ramps, and the westbound offramp to Sundial Bridge Drive, on Wednesday, October 6, 2010, beginning at 10 p.m. until Thursday, October 7, 2010, at 5 a.m.

The closure is necessary for the installation of the final overhead sign structure on the Dana to Downtown project. Detours will be available and clearly marked. Residents and businesses will experience increased presence of equipment and there may be an increase in noise during the night hours.

Please call the Public Information Office at 530-225-3260 for more information.

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NOTE: An electronic version of this news release is available on the Internet at the following web address: <http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist2/roadinfo.htm>

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